



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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Former Social Security Administration claims representative, Thurman McGahee, age 49, of Milwaukee, was sentenced on August 2, in federal court by Chief Judge Rudolph T. Randa to 2 years in prison, following his conviction for mail fraud. McGahee, who had worked for the Social Security Administration since 1995, pled guilty on April 11. The charge emanated from a scheme that McGahee devised to divert taxpayer money to his own use by generating and mailing fraudulent U.S. Treasury checks. The indictment alleged that McGahee altered electronic recipient files in order to create and mail the bogus checks which were then intercepted and cashed by him and his associates. Five other individuals were knowingly involved in the scheme, which caused a loss of approximately \$165,000 before it was discovered.

Other participants who were sentenced by Randa on charges of mail fraud stemming from the scheme include Charlene Bellamy-Oglen, age 31, of Milwaukee who was sentenced on July 20, to 4 years probation with 6 months of home detention; Nicole Tanner, age 36, of Milwaukee, who was sentenced on August 3, to 3 years probation with 3 months of home detention; Brenda Jones, age 33, of Milwaukee who was sentenced on August 4, to 3 months probation with 3 months home confinement; and Otis White, Jr, age 36, of Milwaukee, who was sentenced on August 5, to 18 months prison. White, who was on federal supervised release for drug trafficking at the time of his participation in the scheme, also had his supervised release revoked by Randa, and was sentenced to an additional 6 months in prison.

An additional participant, Anthony Bounds, age 31, of Milwaukee, was separately charged with theft of government property and will be sentenced on September 9, by Judge J.P. Stadtmueller.

The case was investigated by the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carol L. Kraft.

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